

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 3, 7, 8, 12-16, 18, 20, 23 and 24.

Amend claims 1, 9-11, 17, 21 and 22 as indicated below:

1. (presently amended) A method of optimizing system resources in

a network using packetized voice telephony comprising:

determining that a packetized voice call from an originating gateway terminates at a non-human voice interface system, wherein the packetized voice call is assigned a specified high priority level;

determining that the packetized voice call has not been answered at a terminating gateway intended to be a terminating end of the packetized voice call within a prescribed number of rings at the terminating gateway; and

responsively transmitting signaling to cause the originating gateway to transmit the packetized voice call to the non human voice interface system at a lower priority than the specified high priority level.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the non-human voice interface system comprises a voice messaging system.

3. (presently cancelled)The method of Claim 1 wherein the determining includes determining whether a subscriber at a terminating gateway intended to be a terminating end of the packetized voice call subscribes to a voice messaging system.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the non-human voice interface system comprises an interactive voice response system.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising transmitting signaling to cause the originating gateway to compress the packetized voice call.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the specified high priority level comprises a real time priority level to ensure that the packetized voice call will occur substantially in real time.

7. (presently cancelled) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining includes detecting whether the packetized voice call has been answered at a terminating gateway intended to be a terminating end of the packetized voice call within a prescribed number of rings at the terminating gateway.

8. (presently cancelled) The method of claim 7 wherein the detecting comprises detecting whether a ring timeout has occurred at the terminating gateway within the prescribed number of rings at the terminating gateway.

9. (presently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~7~~ wherein the determining that the packetized voice call has not been answered at a terminating gateway ~~detecting~~ comprises detecting whether an absence of an offhook at the terminating gateway within the prescribed number of rings at the terminating gateway.

10. (presently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the responsively transmitting step comprises automatically transmitting the signaling to cause the originating gateway to transmit the packetized voice call to the non-human voice interface system at the lower priority than the specified high priority level.

11. (presently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the responsively transmitting step comprises selectively transmitting the signaling to cause the originating gateway to transmit the

packetized voice call to the non-human voice interface system at the lower priority than the specified high priority level.

12. (presently cancelled) A method of optimizing system resources in a network using packetized voice telephony comprising:

receiving an indication that a packetized voice call has terminated at a non-human voice interface system, wherein the packetized voice call is assigned a specified high priority level;

re-prioritizing the packetized voice call to a lower priority level than the specified high priority level; and

transmitting the packetized voice call to the non-human voice interface system at the lower priority level.

13. (presently cancelled) The method of Claim 12 wherein the non human voice interface system comprises a voicemail system.

14. (presently cancelled) The method of Claim 12 wherein the non human voice interface system comprises a interactive voice response system.

15. (presently cancelled) The method of claim 12 further comprising compressing, prior to the transmitting step, the packetized voice call -

16. (presently cancelled) The method of Claim 12 wherein the specified high priority level comprises a real time priority level to ensure that the packetized voice call will occur substantially in real time.

17. (presently amended) A system for optimizing system resources in a network using packetized voice telephony comprising:

means for determining that a packetized voice call from an originating gateway terminates at a non human voice interface system, wherein the packetized voice call is assigned a specified high priority level;

means for determining that the packetized voice call has not been answered at a terminating gateway intended to be a terminating end of the packetized voice call within a prescribed number of rings at the terminating gateway; and

means for responsively transmitting signaling to cause the originating gateway to transmit the packetized voice call to the non-human voice interface system at a lower priority than the specified high priority level.

18. (presently cancelled) The system of claim 17 wherein the means for determining includes means for determining whether a subscriber at a terminating gateway intended to be a terminating end of the packetized voice call subscribes to a voice messaging system.

19. The system of Claim 17 further comprising means for transmitting signaling to cause the originating gateway to compress the packetized voice call.

20. (presently cancelled) The system of Claim 19 wherein the means for determining includes means for detecting whether the packetized voice call has been answered at a terminating gateway intended to be a terminating end of the packetized voice call within a prescribed number of rings at the terminating gateway.

21. (presently amended) The system of Claim ~~17~~ 19 wherein the means for responsively transmitting comprises means for automatically transmitting the signaling to cause the originating gateway to transmit the packetized voice call to the non-human voice interface system at the lower priority than the specified high priority level.

22. (presently amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein the means for transmitting comprises means for responsively ~~selectively~~ transmitting the signaling to cause the originating gateway to transmit the packetized voice call to the non human voice interface system at the lower priority than the specified high priority level.

23. (presently cancelled) A system for optimizing system resources in a network using packetized voice telephony comprising:

means for receiving an indication that a packetized voice call has terminated at a non-human voice interface system, wherein the packetized voice call is assigned a specified high priority level;

means for re-prioritizing the packetized voice call to a lower priority level than the specified high priority level; and

means for transmitting the packetized voice call to the non-human voice interface system at the lower priority level.

24. (presently cancelled) The system of Claim 23 further comprising means for compressing the packetized voice call.